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# STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

## CALIFORNIA.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Notification of Cases—Treatment and Prevention. (Chap. 724, Act June 11, 1915.)

SECTION 1. Any condition of the eye or eyes of any infant in which there is any inflammation, swelling, or redness in either one or both of eyes of any of such infant, either apart from or together with any unnatural discharge from the eye or eyes of any such infant, at any time within two weeks after its birth, shall, independent of the nature of the infection, for the purpose of this act, be called ophthalmia neonatorum.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of any physician, surgeon, obstetrician, midwife, nurse, maternity home or hospital of any nature, parent, relative, and any person or persons attendant upon or assisting in any way whatsoever either the mother or child, or both, at childbirth, in all cases where such child shall develop within two weeks after its birth ophthalmia neonatorum, and such person shall know the same to exist, to report the case within 24 hours after knowledge of the same, in such form as the State board of health shall direct, to the local health officer of the county or municipality within which the mother of any such infant may reside.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the local health officer:

1. To investigate each case as shall be filed with him in pursuance with this act, and all other such cases as may come to his attention.

2. To report all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum coming to his knowledge, and the result of all such investigations as he shall make to the State board of health, in such form as said board shall direct.

3. To conform to such rules and regulations as the State board of health shall promulgate for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the State board of health:

1. To enforce the provisions of this act.

2. To promulgate such rules and regulations as the State board of health may deem necessary to properly carry out the provisions hereof.

3. To provide for the gratuitous distribution of a scientific prophylactic for ophthalmia neonatorum, together with proper directions for the use and administration thereof, to all physicians, midwives, and such other persons as may be lawfully engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirths.

4. To print and publish such further advice and information concerning the dangers of ophthalmia neonatorum and the necessity for prompt and effective treatment thereof as said board may deem necessary.

5. To furnish without cost copies of this law to all physicians, midwives, and such other persons as may be lawfully engaged in the practice of obstetrics or assisting at childbirths.

6. To keep a proper record of any and all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum as shall be filed in their office in pursuance with this law, and as may come to their attention in any way, and to constitute such records a part of the biennial report to the governor and the legislature.

7. To report any and all violations of this act as may come to their attention to the district attorney of the district wherein any violation of any provision of this act may have been committed, for the purpose of prosecution.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of all maternity homes, hospitals, and similar institutions wherein childbirths shall occur to keep a record of all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurring or discovered therein. Such records shall be in the form and contain the matters which the State board of health shall prescribe.

SEC. 6. The failure of any person mentioned in section 2 hereof to report, or the failure of any maternity home, hospital, or similar institution, to record any and all cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, as herein directed, or the failure or refusal of any person or institution, herein mentioned, to obey any rule or regulation adopted by the State board of health under this act, shall constitute a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined, for the first offense not to exceed \$50; for a second offense not to exceed \$100; and for a third offense, and thereafter not to exceed \$200 for each violation; and after the third conviction, if the person be a physician, midwife, or other person professionally employed, such conviction shall be a sufficient cause for the revocation of the license of such person by the board which granted the same. One-half of all fines collected hereunder shall go to the county wherein the prosecution was had, and the remaining one-half thereof shall go into the State treasury and constitute a special fund to be expended by the State board of health for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act. Any case of ophthalmia neonatorum, or the resultant blindness therefrom, upon which the accused may have been in attendance as hereinbefore set forth, shall be prima facie evidence of knowledge of such case by the accused.

SEC. 7. Chapter 14, statutes of 1897, entitled "An act to regulate medical practice, to prevent blindness in infants," approved February 17, 1897, and all other acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

**State Board of Health—Bureau of Tuberculosis—Establishment and Maintenance—Powers and Duties. (Chap. 766, Act June 12, 1915.)**

SECTION 1. The State board of health shall maintain a bureau of tuberculosis for the complete and proper registration of all tuberculous persons within the State; for supervision over all hospitals, dispensaries, sanatoria, farm-colonies and other institutions for tuberculosis, both public and private; for advising officers of the State penal and charitable institutions regarding the proper care of tuberculous inmates, and for such educational and publicity work as may be necessary; for administration of the fund for State aid to cities, counties, cities and counties and groups of counties for the care of patients who are county charges in city, county, or city and county tuberculosis wards or hospitals or in tuberculosis wards and hospitals maintained by any group of counties, and for the performance of such other duties as may be assigned by the said board.

SEC. 2. The State board of health shall appoint a director of the bureau, who shall be duly qualified and trained in public health work, whose salary shall be fixed by the board in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 per annum, and such other employees as may be deemed necessary, and shall fix their compensation. The director and all employees of the bureau shall come within the jurisdiction of the civil-service law. In addition to the administration of the bureau, under the supervision of the State board of health, it shall be the duty of the director, and he is hereby invested with full power, to inspect and investigate, and have access to all records and departments of all institutions, both public and private, where tuberculosis patients are treated. He shall prepare annually for each institution a report of its rating on sanitary construction, enforcement of sanitary measures, adequate provision for medical and nursing attendance, provision for proper food, and such other matters of administration as may be designated. Administration of the fund for the care of patients who